**Position Paper on Chechen Rebels**

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Defending Group As Freedom Fighters

Chechen Rebels

The Chechen Rebels are a smaller party and we are located in Russia’s North Caucasus region. We have been ruled under the power of Moscow for over two hundred years. It wasn’t until after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, when our advocates of separation launched a campaign of independence. It had completely fallen apart, and it was time for both our people and our tiny republic to take action for the sake of our independence. We the Chechen people came together and established the Chechen movement to fight for our independence but it has only torn us apart due to the cycles of warfare between our people and the Russian military.  Even after the death of our leader and separatist, Shamil Basayev, the movement weakened which only motivated us to try harder. Our campaign of independence resulted in two wars, and a continuous rebellion in Russia’s Chechnyan republic. But this will not stop us. Our public is responsible to fight for the independence that we believe we should be given, and when we stand together we can **fight** for our **freedom**. Defending our rights and freedom is our only hope for the sake of our future.

Recognized as a distinct group of people since the 17th century, the Chechens have been identified as an ethnic group whose marked history has been done due to our violent struggles with independence. Our intentions are to strive to support the wellbeing of the people living in Chechnya and those from around the world. We care about the conditions of our country and want them to live safe, happy, and prosperous lives. We believe that our country deserves to be independent. We come from the Southern region of the Russian border, and we have campaigned several times for the right of independence for our people. We launched two independence campaigns which arose the first Chechen war in 1994. About five years later, the second Chechen war began in 1999, and has even since been the cause of the region’s ongoing violence. Our government has always been loyal to the Russian government and in return they limit our rights as citizens. Since 1921, when Prime Minister Joseph Stalin seized control of Chechnya, hundreds of thousands of our people have perished under his rule. In 1934, the USSR merged the Chechen government and the Ingush government, with plans to end our region's ethnic identity known as Islam. One of our groups has identified itself with Muslim extremists, and it is said to be true by the Central Asia-Caucasus institute that the ideas of an Islamic state and jihad have been spread among our people, to follow up to the second Chechen war. In 1944, we were accused of collaborating with the Nazi’s during WWII and we were forced to relocate to Siberia only to return to our homeland after Stalin’s death in 1957.  Since then we have resisted their authority and the Russian’s responded by starting the first war between us known as the First Chechen War causing tens of thousands of our civilians to die. We are recognized by the U.S. state department as terrorists. We have become victims of terrorism by others, but what they do not know is our struggle for freedom; and the reasoning behind our various actions that have been taken. Today, the Russians continue to fight against us by destroying our cities and gaining more control over Chechnya and the North Caucasus. Russian forces bombed and invaded Chechnya. But due to the great support we have of our people, we do not plan to stop until we notice Russia taking our needs into perspective. We would never intend to be the suspects of terror, but when it comes to interfering and potentially breaking down our nation; the act must be done. Our intentions aren’t to disrupt the quality of life of the outside world, but to gain support into helping us regain our independence. We want independence, and we are willing to fight for what we want.

We want to fight for our own freedom. Our focus is to get the independence our people deserve. Russia should have no right to take over what is ours, they will not take anything else from us. They have attempted to dominate our homeland more than enough times, and this will be the last. They have tried taking over our land, which we are reluctant to give up due to its value in natural resource. Our region has been blessed with one of the most demanding natural resources on Earth today, oil. The demand and need of it is rapidly increasing due to the fear that it will eventually not exist. We are aiming for independence and will do what we have to in order to get it. As a short term goal, we want to establish a new political framework and develop a new government because by doing this our country can have new start and it will benefit our people. Russia has tormented and tried breaking us apart; and we will fight for our freedom back.

We are not terrorists but a state in a time of oppression. We are fighting to end all discrimination and hatred  towards Chechnya and the North Caucasus region. We want to know what it feels to be free again but in order to achieve that we need the support of our fellow countries.  We are seeking a common ground between Chechnya and Russia.  As a start, Russian authorities need to reduce the amount of Russian military in Chechnya so we can rebuild our government. By doing this it allows us to reorganize and rebuild from where we left off since 1991. There should be some kind of compromise taken into action. We will not back down to those who have tried so hard to tear us apart. A people this strong will never give up a fight that easy. It hasn’t ever been easy, and we don’t expect it to be; but a fight for our independence is what we will take on. Our own homeland has been tormented, terrorized, and torn apart; but it never will be fully.

We, the people of Chechnya have been put into this predicament and have lost more than enough of our homeland, and are reluctant to have that be the case again. Despite the aggression between the Chechnya and Russia, our focus is to establish a new government in which our people are free to participate in any organization they choose and well as the opportunity to regain our trust with Russia once again. We will not beg for the support, but for the understanding of our intentions to defend our people and their homeland. Our mission will not be complete until our independence is granted, and we will fight for it; harder than we have been hit by them. This has been a goal of ours for over ten years, and we are willing to fight another ten if that is what it will take to gain back our independence.

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